

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled).

29(Previously presented). An osteoclastgenic inhibitory composition for treating osteoclast-related diseases in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof, which comprises a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier and, as an effective ingredient, an effective amount of (i) an interleukin-18 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and a functional equivalent of said interleukin-18, or (ii) said functional equivalent, wherein said functional equivalent is capable of exerting osteoclastgenic inhibitory activity and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) and optionally one or more amino acid residues are inserted into the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 are additionally removed and/or replaced with other amino acid residue(s) but still retaining the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:4.

Appln. No. 09/030,061
Amd. dated October 7, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2003

30 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 29, which is in the form of a liquid, paste, or solid.

31 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 29, which further contains a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of proteins, buffers, saccharides, and mixtures thereof.

32 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 29, wherein said warm-blooded animal is human.

33 (Currently amended). The composition of claim 29, comprising:

an effective amount of [[an]] said interleukin-18 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6[;

a]] and of said functional equivalent of said interleukin-18; and

a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

Claim 34 (Cancelled).

35 (Previously presented). The composition of claim 29, wherein said functional equivalent is capable of exerting osteoclastgenic inhibitory activity and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) and where one or more amino acid residues are inserted into the amino acid

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sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 are additionally removed and/or replaced with other amino acid residue(s) but still retaining the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, and SEQ ID NO:4.

36(Previously presented). The composition of claim 29, wherein said functional equivalent is capable of exerting osteoclastgenic inhibitory activity and comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, where one or more cysteine residues are replaced with a different amino acid residue(s) without one or more amino acid residues being inserted into the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and without one or more amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 being additionally removed and/or replaced with other amino acid residue(s).